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Jewish Ledger • January 16, 2004

U.S. troops deserve the best equipment possible

I greatly appreciated the editorial in the Connecticut Jewish Ledger, ("Vulnerable Humvees," Jan. 9) that focused attention on the issue of Up-Armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs) or Humvees in Iraq. This is an issue we have been working on for several months.

I was part of a House Armed Services Committee delegation that went to Iraq in October and saw firsthand the need to deliver Up-Armored Humvees to our troops.

Humvees are built for use in rapid maneuvering situations such as pursuing the enemy behind heavy armor and APCs. They are not constructed for use in patrol situations where troops are subject to terrorist attack and the type of improvised explosive devices that are claiming the lives of courageous Americans now serving in Iraq.

I informed Acting Secretary Brownlee that although the Army has made moving up-armored vehicles to Iraq a top priority, I am unsatisfied with the rate of implementation.

Our men and women in Iraq are engaged in dangerous work on our behalf. We owe them nothing less than our full support and

that includes ensuring that they have all the equipment necessary to do their work as safely as possible. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am working with my colleagues to make sure they do.

Rep. Rob Simmons
(R-2nd District)